

**Parks Advisory Committee Meeting  
Mansfield Community Center Conference Room  
Wednesday, December 2, 2015  
7:30 pm**

**Chair: Sue Harrington**

**Draft Minutes**

- I. Welcome
- II. Attendance- Members: Sue Harrington, Tom Harrington, Juliana Barrett, Bill Thorne.  
Guests: John Hankins, Lon Hultgren. Staff: Jennifer Kauffman, ,
- III. Approval of Minutes -Tom Harrington moved to approve minutes as submitted. Bill Thorne seconded, minutes approved unanimously
- IV. Old Business
  - A. Bicycling in Town Parks- John Hankins reviewed his proposal to open town parks for off-road cycling. He focused on five town properties which, if open for cycling would connect these town parks: Saw Mill Brook Preserve/Wolf Rock, 50 Foot Cliff, Coney Rock preserve, Schoolhouse Brook Park, Dorwart preserve, Merrow Meadow. John Hankins said that he would get the local bicycle club to repair any areas damaged by bicycles.  
  
Bill Thorne moved and Juliana Barrett seconded to allow the listed park/preserves to be open for off-road recreational cycling for a six-month trial from December until June 2016. Motion passed.
  - B. Laguardia Property– it is not feasible to have handicap access over the dike. DOT is in the process of transferring this property to the Town of Mansfield.
  - C. Guarnaccia/Meadow Brook Lane, LLC Property- public hearing will be held Monday, December 14. Jennifer reminded members to speak to the Town Council.
  - D. Storrs Center Open Space- PAC & Open Space Committee members walked the access area to Whetten Woods extension. The planned entrance is at the clubhouse. The group felt that an additional entrance just North of there would be more Mansfield resident and student friendly. Access, and particularly handicapped access would be facilitated with an entrance here (the end of the parking lot).

E. Memorial Bench for Jessi Clark at Merrow Meadow- Jennifer walked the site with Mrs. Clark and explained where Mrs. Clark would like the bench. The committee discussed that location. Jennifer will look into its feasibility.

F. Management Plan Review

- Merrow Meadow-Juliana Barrett presented a management plan update. She will type up her notes and forward to Jennifer.
- Schoolhouse Brook Park- discussion was postponed until next Spring.

G. Events

- Winter Tracking Event-Scheduled for 1/24.
- Spring Brochure-Sue and Tom will present some ideas at the January meeting.
- Other

V. New Business- Discussed new parking area at Mansfield Hollow Park. This is a DEEP responsibility.

VI. Future Agendas- John Hankins asked about creating a short extension trail to connect the Nipmuck Trail to the the Boy Scout trail at Wolf Rock. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Management plan updates for Schoolhouse Brook Park and other properties will be on the agenda for a spring meeting.

VII. Announcements/Communications- Henceforth Park Advisory Committee meetings will be held in conference room B at the Town hall at 7 PM. The January meeting will begin at 7:30 PM.

VIII. Adjourn-meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM